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**SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**  
(September 22 - October 21, 1980)

November 1980

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of  
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Analyst: Gerald Cady

## PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Sahara Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

## CONTENTS

|  | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Africa General -----                | 1           |
| 2. Organization of African Unity ----- | 2           |
| 3. Angola -----                        | 2           |
| 4. Benin -----                         | 3           |
| 5. Cape Verde Islands -----            | 3           |
| 6. Chad -----                          | 3           |
| 7. Congo -----                         | 4           |
| 8. Djibouti -----                      | 4           |
| 9. Equatorial Guinea -----             | 5           |
| 10. Ethiopia -----                     | 5           |
| 11. Ghana -----                        | 6           |
| 12. Guinea -----                       | 6           |
| 13. Guinea-Bissau -----                | 7           |
| 14. Liberia -----                      | 7           |
| 15. Madagascar -----                   | 7           |
| 16. Mauritania -----                   | 8           |
| 17. Mozambique -----                   | 8           |
| 18. Namibia -----                      | 8           |
| 19. Republic of South Africa -----     | 9           |
| 20. Sierra Leone -----                 | 9           |
| 21. Sudan -----                        | 9           |
| 22. Togo -----                         | 10          |
| 23. Uganda -----                       | 10          |
| 24. Zaire -----                        | 11          |
| 25. Zimbabwe -----                     | 11          |

Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa  
(22 September - 21 October 1980)\*

Africa General

African Broadcasters Meeting

(Text) The Commission of African National Radio and Television Broadcasting Companies (URTNA) opened a meeting in Cotonou, Benin. Benin's Minister for Information and Propaganda, M. D. Azonkhikho, stated that the major task facing the Commission at this time was the achievement of a level of information, both in terms of quality and quantity, that satisfied the growing needs of the people of Africa. (15 Oct 80, p. 1)

Locusts

(Summary) The threat by swarms of locusts to the food-producing capability of several Central and West African countries is greater now, according to many specialists, than it has been at any time during the past 100 years. Countries affected by these insects include Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria. (16 Oct 80, p. 5)

United Nation's Efforts Against Colonialism

(Summary) The 25th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in particular the Third Committee (which deals with questions involving society, humanity, and culture), continued its work to rid the world of colonialism in all of its forms. In a report by a subcommittee of this committee, a list of 2,500 foreign companies and banks, most of them American and British, were cited as being responsible for the perpetuation of racial discrimination in the course of their operations in the Republic of South Africa. (17 Oct 80, p. 5)

International Science Conference Held in Berlin

(Summary) The International Science Conference devoted to the theme of "The United Struggle of the Working Classes and National Liberation Movements Against Imperialism and For Social Progress" opened in Berlin on 20 October. It was organized by the Communist Party of the German Democratic Republic in conjunction with the magazine Problems of Peace and Socialism. In the National Palace in Berlin, delegates from Communist and workers parties, other revolutionary parties, national liberation movements, and labor representatives from countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa met to hear talks and to discuss various aspects of the subject of the conference. (21 Oct 80, p. 4)

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\* Not Including 11 October issue.

## Organization of African Unity

### Mediation Efforts Fail

(Text) In spite of the intermediary efforts on the part of the Organization of African Unity, specifically its call for a ceasefire in the Western Sahara, the fighting continues between the Polisario Front and Moroccan troops. (24 Sep 80, p. 5)

## Angola

### Gromyko's UN Visit

(Summary) Andrei Gromyko, Member of the Politburo and Foreign Minister of the USSR, visited the United Nation's headquarters on 28 September and met, among others, the Angolan representative to this international body. They discussed a number of topics relating to Soviet-Angolan relations and other items of mutual interest such as the Namibian peoples' struggle for freedom. (29 Sep 80, p. 5)

### Preparations for Important Party Congress

(Summary) A commission is presently meeting in Angola to make preparations for an extraordinary congress of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) - Workers' Party which is to meet in December of this year. The MPLA is the militant vanguard of the Angolan people and this upcoming congress will define the path which the young nation of Angola will follow until 1985. Organs of people's power have been established all over Angola. These socio-political organizations, in unison with the impending decisions of the party congress, guarantee success to Angola in its attempt to create a new society. (7 Oct 80, p. 5)

### Confiscation of Expatriates' Property

(Text) The Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Angola has issued a decree for the confiscation of the property and assets of five industrial enterprises whose owners fled the country. (12 Oct 80, p. 4)

### Nationwide Conferences

(Summary) In every provincial center in the People's Republic of Angola conferences began. The delegates to these conferences were selected by the local organs of people's power and include the foremost workers, peasants, servicemen, and intellectual laborers. The process of creating organs of people's power in Angola will be completed in November when 206 deputies are selected for the National Assembly. (13 Oct 80, p. 4)

## Election Results

(Summary) More than 1,000 deputies were elected to organs of people's power throughout the 80 provinces of Angola. This unprecedented free election binds the masses of workers with their militant vanguard, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) - Workers' Party. Despite imperialist insinuations to the contrary, the creation of the organs of people's power demonstrates the sincerity of Angola to construct a people's democratic type of government. And on 11 November, the fifth anniversary of Angola's Proclamation of Independence, delegates to the National Assembly will be elected. (18 Oct 80, p. 1)

## Benin

### Census Data

(Text) The population of Benin is 3,300,000 people according to the census publication released in Cotonou. (19 Oct 80, p. 5)

## Cape Verde Islands

### Nation Day Telegram Exchange

(Summary) L. I. Brezhnev sent a telegram to Aristides Pereira, Secretary General of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde and President of Cape Verde, and Pedro Pires, Prime Minister of the Republic, warmly congratulating the Supreme Council for the Struggle of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde, the government, and the friendly people of Cape Verde on their national holiday--Nation Day. Pereira, in a reply telegram, expressed his gratitude for the congratulations and warm wishes for Cape Verde's future. (25 Sep 80, p. 2 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #193, 2 Oct 80, p. J1.)

## Chad

### Mercenary Involvement

(Summary) According to an information agency report, the armed conflict in Chad has risen to higher levels with the increased involvement by mercenaries. A mercenary group of 50 from the Federal Republic of Germany secretly arrived in the city of Dugi, 60 kilometers northwest of the capital, on 27 September. It was also reported that the ex-Minister of Defense, H. Habre had nearly 100 white mercenaries, led by the veteran A. Asila, under his command. And a spokesman for the forces of the North declared that among the mercenaries gathering in the capital of Cameroon were Italians and Englishmen, besides the Germans. (8 Oct 80, p. 5)

## Congo

### Labor Party Delegation Ends Visit

(Summary) A delegation from the Congolese Labor Party headed by A. Tringi, Member of the Central Committee and Political Commissar for Buenza Province, was in the Soviet Union from 22 through 29 September in accordance with the plan strengthening party ties. (1 Oct 80, p. 4 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #199, 10 Oct 80, p. J1.)

### Principles of Congolese Foreign Policy

(Summary) The foreign policy of the Congolese Workers Party (CWP) is based on the principles of national independence, nonalignment, friendship and solidarity with all peoples, and the maintenance of the ideals of peace and justice. The CWP completely supports the struggle for peace, independence, democratic and social progress against the forces of racism and the aggressive intrigues of imperialism and neocolonialism. This summary of foreign policy objectives was formulated and made public after the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CWP met and discussed questions relating to cooperation between the Congo and other nations.

And in accordance with the charter of the CWP, the party will continue to enact into life the principles of proletarian internationalism [term that usually means a nation's willingness to be subservient in matters of foreign policy to the USSR]. This is the only path for the Congo to follow in the face of the objective and historically verified facts that have come to light since the great October Socialist Revolution [Soviet Revolution now celebrated in November]. (15 Oct 80, p. 4)

## Djibouti

### Djiboutian Legislators' Visit

(Text) A delegation from the National Assembly of the Republic of Djibouti, led by Abdelkader Vaberi Askar, speaker of the assembly, arrived in Moscow on 29 September for an official visit at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. (30 Sep 80, p. 4)

### Djiboutian Legislators' Activities

(Text) The delegation of legislators from the National Assembly of the Republic of Djibouti returned to Moscow after a visit to Azerbaijan. On 3 September the delegation met with the chairmen and members of the permanent committees of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in Moscow. (4 Oct 80, p. 4)



### Parliamentarian Delegation

(Text) A delegation from the National Assembly of the Republic of Djibouti led by Abdelkader Vaberi Askar departed from Moscow on 4 October. The delegation had been invited to the Soviet Union by the Supreme Soviet. (5 Oct 80, p. 4)

### Equatorial Guinea

#### Exchange of Telegrams

(Summary) L. I. Brezhnev has sent a telegram to Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, President of the Supreme Military Council, Head of State and Head of Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, conveying congratulations on the occasion of Equatorial Guinea's national holiday, the 12th anniversary of its independence. The Soviet leader received a telegram expressing thanks and conveying best wishes. (15 Oct 80, p. 3 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #207, 23 Oct 80, p. J2.)

### Ethiopia

#### Western Backing of Somali Aggression

(Summary) The city of Vorda(?) in eastern Ethiopia is filled with charred tanks and is pocked by the effects of artillery. For 52 days an Ethiopian Revolutionary Army unit fought off the Somali invaders. The leaders of Somalia would like the world to believe that it was the Western Somali Liberation Front that was involved in the fighting, but there is clear evidence that regular Somali military units were involved. The Ethiopians have captured military equipment used by the invaders that had previously been supplied to Somalia by a number of Western powers, Egypt, and several other Arab countries. (23 Sep 80, p. 5)

#### Literacy Campaign

[A photograph of a classroom in Addis Ababa filled with adults studying is part of a small article on the campaign against backwardness, especially illiteracy, and the establishment of 100 educational centers by the socialist regime. (9 Oct 80, p. 4).]

#### Road Construction and Repair Effort

(Text) Ethiopia has formed 14 brigades to increase the construction and repair capabilities of the road network in a number of administrative regions. It also intends to form some specialist brigades for the construction and repair of bridges, ports, and airports. These decisions will widen the direct involvement of the governmental sector in the actual construction work itself. (18 Oct 80, p. 1)

### Revolutionary Initiatives in Rural Areas

(Text) The democratic-revolutionary authorities of Ethiopia have undertaken numerous initiatives attempting to rid the countryside of backwardness. Foremost among these efforts has been the liquidation of illiteracy among the peasantry and the promotion of regional centers where the propagation of new work methods and basic principles for improving standards of health would be facilitated. The Ethiopian authorities have also sought to increase the political education of the rural populace. In the course of this campaign, very able teachers have been dispatched to peasant associations at the regional centers. At this time there are 179 such centers and resources that have been allocated for the establishment of a total of 400. (19 Oct 80, p. 4)

### Ghana

#### Diplomatic Credential Ceremony

(Text) The Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana, George R. Nina, presented his diplomatic credentials to V. V. Kuznetsov, First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR's Supreme Soviet and Candidate Member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, at the Kremlin on 17 October. The Ambassador was accompanied by colleagues from the embassy. Both men gave a speech and then held a friendly meeting in which M. P. Geordze, Secretary of the Presidium, and L. F. Ilichev, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, also participated. (18 Oct 80, p. 4)

### Guinea

#### Meeting During Gromyko's UN Visit

(Summary) A. Gromyko, Politburo Member and Foreign Minister of the USSR, met A. Turay, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, at the headquarters of the United Nations and discussed questions dealing with Soviet-Guinean cooperation and a number of issues regarding the situation in southern Africa. (27 Sep 80, p. 4)

#### National Anniversary Greetings

(Summary) L. I. Brezhnev, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and the Soviet people, congratulated Sekou Toure, the Democratic Party of Guinea (PDG), and the people of Guinea for their 22d anniversary of their Proclamation of Nationhood. (2 Oct 80, p. 1)

### Kosygin Sends Congratulations

(Summary) A. Kosygin, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, sent Tansana Beavogui, Prime Minister of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, greetings for the nation's national holiday--the 22d anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic. (2 Oct 80, p. 2 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #199, 10 Oct 80, p. J1.)

### Brezhnev Receives Cable of Appreciation

(Summary) Sekou Toure, President of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea and General Secretary of the Democratic Party of Guinea (PDG), sent a telegram to L. I. Brezhnev in which he thanked the Soviet leader for his expression of congratulations with regard to the observance of Guinea's 22d anniversary of its Proclamation of Independence. (17 Oct 80, p. 3)

### Guinea-Bissau

#### Brezhnev's Holiday Greetings

(Summary) L. I. Brezhnev sent a telegram on behalf of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union expressing warm congratulations to L. Kabralu, Chairman of the National Council of Guinea-Bissau and Deputy General Secretary of the African Party of Independence for Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands, on the occasion of Guinea-Bissau's national holiday--Nation Day. Brezhnev's telegram also lauded Guinea-Bissau's efforts in promoting social and economic progress, as well as its support for liberation movements and struggle against the forces of imperialism. (21 Oct 80, p. 2)

### Liberia

#### Confiscation of Property

(Summary) The ruling People's Redemption Council declared that all property belonging to officials of the deposed regime would be confiscated for use by the state. (27 Sep 80, p.5)

### Madagascar

#### Order of the Friendship of Peoples Awarded

(Summary) I. V. Usmankhodzhaev, Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, awarded the Order of Friendship of Peoples to Rishara Andrimandzata, Chairman of the Party of the Congress for an Independent Madagascar, at the Kremlin on 29 September. He was presented the award for his efforts

in the struggle for peace, national independence, social progress, and for his major efforts to strengthen the bonds between the peoples of Madagascar and the Soviet Union, as well as in conjunction with his celebrating his 50th birthday. (30 Sep 80, p. 4)

#### Mauritania

##### Diplomatic Credential Ceremony

(Summary) The Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Mohammed Ghali Ould el Bu, presented his diplomatic credentials to I. B. Usmankodzhaev, Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR. After an exchange of speeches a friendly meeting was held. (9 Oct 80, p. 4)

#### Mozambique

##### Basis of National Army

(Text) Samora Machel, the Commander-in-Chief of the Peoples Liberation Forces of Mozambique and President of the country, declared that the regular army had as its firm basis the people of Mozambique. (25 Sep 80, p. 1)

#### Namibia

##### History of Namibia

[In a very long article, V. Korovikov details the history of Namibia, with special emphasis being placed on the constructive role of SWAPO. (2 Oct 80, p. 4).]

##### Soviet Aid to SWAPO

(Text) The Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Nations of Asia and Africa, playing a leading role in coordinating the international solidarity campaign with the people of Namibia, have sent goods, purchased with money from the Soviet Fund for Peace, to the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO). Aeroflot aircraft made special flights to Luanda, Angola carrying medical and bandaging supplies, as well as food and manufactured goods. (16 Oct 80, p. 4)

##### Soviet Contribution Received

(Summary) The donation of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the countries of Asia and Africa to the Namibian patriots, consisting of foodstuffs, medicine, bandaging materials, cinematic supplies, and other material for the use of the Namibian refugees, arrived in Luanda, Angola where a ceremony was held. (20 Oct 80, p. 5)

## Republic of South Africa

### Observance of Solidarity Against Racism

(Summary) A Day of Solidarity with political prisoners incarcerated in torture chambers in the Republic of South Africa (RSA) was observed at the headquarters of the United Nations. O. A. Troyanovskii, the Soviet representative at the UN, recalled the atrocities that occurred in Sharpeville and Soweto in the RSA and called for more effective measures against the regime in Pretoria by the UN Security Council. (12 Oct 80, p. 4)

### Black Unemployment

(Text) The unemployed Blacks in the Republic of South Africa number about 2 million and amount to one-fifth of all able-bodied Blacks in that country. (13 Oct 80, p. 5)

### Apartheid Supported By Imperialism

[In a very long article, V. Shchetinin, a doctor in Economic Science, uses United Nation's statistics detailing the investments in the Republic of South Africa by nations such as the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Federal Republic of Germany, and claims that this is imperialism's most important, though indirect, support for the policy of apartheid. (16 Oct 80, p. 4).]

## Sierra Leone

### Russian Language Study

(Text) The Russian language program in the capital city of Freetown has gotten underway as the new school year has begun in Sierra Leone. Enrollment in the language course has increased one and a half times over the number of students studying last year. (19 Oct 80, p. 1)

## Sudan

### Diplomatic Credential Ceremony

(Text) The Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Sudan, K. A. al-Bashir, presented his diplomatic credentials to I. B. Usmankhodzhaev, Deputy Chairman of the USSR's Supreme Soviet's Presidium, on 2 October at the Kremlin. After both men gave speeches they had a friendly meeting. (3 Oct 80, p. 4)

## Allegations Regarding Invasion of Uganda

[See article on 16 Oct 80 under Uganda heading.]

### Togo

#### Diplomatic Credential Ceremony

(Text) The Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Togo, L. Kerim-Dikeni, presented his credentials at the Kremlin to M. A. Yasnov, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union. After the credential presentation and speeches by both men, a friendly talk took place which also included M. P. Georghadze, Secretary of the Supreme Soviet, and L. F. Ilichev, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. (5 Oct 80, p. 4)

### Uganda

#### Pro-Amin Forces' Invasion

(Summary) Paul Muvanga, Chairman of the Armed Forces Committee of the Front for the National Liberation of Uganda, declared that the military activity taking place in the northwest regions of the country was the result of an invasion by a group supporting ex-president Idi Amin. This force, he declared, was successful initially but has now been brought under control by Ugandan troops. He went on to say that other antigovernment activities by groups in Uganda and in neighboring countries were a severe threat to the stability and democracy of Uganda and would be harshly dealt with by the government. (16 Oct 80, p. 5)

#### Denial of Complicity in Invasion

(Summary) Sudan categorically refuted the charges that it supported the invasion of Uganda by individuals loyal to Idi Amin. (16 Oct 80, p. 5)

#### Invaders' Use of Zairian Territory

(Text) The government of Zaire denied the report that the armed forces that invaded Uganda made preparations on the territory of Zaire. (16 Oct 80, p. 5)

#### Attacks by Pro-Amin Forces

(Summary) Fighting continues in northwest regions of Uganda between units of the regular Ugandan Army and armed formations composed of individuals who had fought on the side of ex-president Amin in the past. (17 Oct 80, p. 5)

## Zaire

### Ugandan Invaders' Use of Zairian Territory

[See 16 Oct 80 article under Uganda heading.]

## Zimbabwe

### Marxism-Leninism's Role

(Summary) R. Mugabe, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, told the upper house of his country's parliament that the philosophy of Marxism-Leninism is a guide in the on-going effort to shape a socialist society in Zimbabwe. There was nothing reprehensible in the principle of socialism involving nationalizing the ownership of resources for the benefit of all people and of the society as a whole, he declared. In fact, he continued, the concept of nationalization fitted in nicely with traditional concepts of ownership, as pasture lands, rivers, mountains, and forests had never belonged to any one individual. (28 Sep 80, p. 5)

### Soviets Receive Nkomo's Endorsement

(Text) Joshua Nkomo, the Republic of Zimbabwe's Minister for Internal Affairs, declared that the Soviet Union is a true friend of Africa. He also stated that without Soviet help and without the example of the Soviet Revolution of 1917, all of Africa would still be under the yoke of slavery. (14 Oct 80, p. 1)